

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02588 131058Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 AGRE-00 /100 W
-----073577 131252Z /45

R 131002Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3602
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS PRAGUE 2588

VIENNA FOR AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, EAGR, CZ
SUBJECT: HUSAK BACK IN MOTION

REF: 76 PRAGUE 2482

1. FOLLOWING A RELATIVELY QUIET SUMMER, PRESIDENT AND PARTY
GENERAL SECRETARY GUSTAV HUSAK HAS STARTED A FALL ROUND OF
POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITH A TRADITIONAL HARVEST FESTIVAL SPEECH
AND A PARTY/STATE VISIT TO HUNGARY SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK.

2. HARVEST FESTIVAL SPEECH AT OLOMOUC WAS GENERALLY UPBEAT,
CELEBRATING WHAT HUSAK SAID WAS SECOND LARGEST CROP IN CZECH-
OSLOVAK HISTORY. HUSAK EMPHASIZED BENEFITS POPULACE ENJOY UNDER
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CZECHOSLOVAK FORM OF "KNEDLIK COMMUNISM," BUT ALSO WARNED OF
SHORTCOMINGS. MAIN POINTS WERE:

A) PRICE OF FOODSTUFFS IS LOW AND STATE SUBSIDIZED.
HUSAK TIED STATEMENT "WE DO NOT WANT TO RAISE PRICES"
WITH WARNING AGAINST WASTE. AS REPORTED IN PRESS HE
DID NOT SPECIFICALLY TIE PRICE STABILITY TO

INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, AS HE DID IN LAST YEAR'S "HARVEST HOME" SPEECH (REFTEL).

B) WHILE GRAIN CROP EXCELLENT, IMPORTS ARE STILL REQUIRED. IMPORTS OF NON-TROPICAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES COULD BE REDUCED THROUGH BETTER USE OF DOMESTIC CAPABILITIES.

C) FARMERS HAVE HAD PROBLEMS IN KEEPING LIVESTOCK HERD AT CURRENT LEVELS AND MEETING DEMAND FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS AND EGGS. NEVERTHELESS, MEAT CONSUMPTION THIS YEAR IS RUNNING AT ANNUAL PER CAPITA LEVEL OF 82 KG.

D) IN INTERNATIONAL MATTERS HUSAK MADE CUSTOMARY OBEISANCE TO SOVIETS, COMPLAINED ABOUT ATTACKS ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY "BOURGEOIS" MEDIA AND EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH STATES OF ALL SOCIAL SYSTEMS ON BASIS OF EQUALITY AND NONINTER-FERENCE.

3. IN CONTRAST TO HIS USUAL AVUNCULAR AND DIGNIFIED STYLE WHEN ADDRESSING MEETINGS IN PRAGUE, AT OLOMOUC HUSAK TURNED IN A PIECE OF FIERY ARM-WAVING STUMP ORATORY WHICH HE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED.

4. HUSAK AND A PARTY/STATE DELEGATION, ACCORDING TO SEPTEMBER 10 PRESS, ARE DUE SHORTLY TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO HUNGARY. CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS VISIT WILL START UNCLASSIFIED

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SEPTEMBER 14.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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